

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
**CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 6,873,243 B1  
DATED : March 29, 2005  
INVENTOR(S) : Joshua D. Karnes, Martin Lindquist and Louis E. Fischer

Page 1 of 3

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 9,

Line 63, Claim 1 should read as follows:

- 1. A fuse assembly comprising:
- a fuse element prepared in a substantially non-linear form, the fuse element comprising at least two terminals, the at least two terminals comprising a first terminal and a second terminal;  
at least two conductive endcaps, the at least two conductive endcaps comprising a first conductive endcap coupled to said first terminal and a second conductive endcap coupled to said second terminal and
  - a fuse body comprising a dielectric material adapted to substantially enclose the fuse element between the at least two endcaps, wherein  
a first portion of the dielectric material is positioned in an area bounded by said fuse element and a straight line connecting said first terminal and said second terminal to impede arcing across the fuse element, and  
a second portion of the dielectric material is positioned directly between said first conductive endcap and said second conductive endcap to impede arcing between said first conductive endcap and said second conductive endcap. --.

Column 11,

Line 1, Claim 14 should read as follows:

- 14. A method of reducing a footprint of a fuse element, the method comprising:
- preparing the fuse element in a substantially non-linear form, the fuse element comprising at least two terminals, the at least two terminals comprising a first terminal and a second terminal, the footprint being reduced by adjusting a distance between the first terminal and the second terminal;  
coupling the fuse element between at least two conductive endcaps, the at least two conductive endcaps comprising a first conductive endcap coupled to said first terminal and a second conductive endcap coupled to said second terminal; and
  - enclosing the fuse element in a dielectric material, wherein  
a first portion of said dielectric material is positioned in an area bounded by said fuse element and a straight line connecting said first terminal and said second terminal, and  
a second portion of said dielectric material is positioned directly between said first conductive endcap and said second conductive endcap to impede arcing between said first conductive endcap and said second conductive endcap. --.

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It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 12,

Line 12, Claim 27 should read as follows:

- 27. A method of increasing dielectric separation between at least two terminals of a fuse element that experience arcing, the method comprising:
- preparing the fuse element in a substantially non-linear form;
  - coupling the fuse element between at least two conductive endcaps, the at least two conductive endcaps comprising a first conductive endcap coupled to a first terminal of said at least two terminals and a second conductive endcap coupled to a second terminal of said at least two terminals; and
  - enclosing the fuse element in a dielectric material, wherein
    - a first portion of said dielectric material is positioned in an area bounded by said fuse element and a straight line connecting said first terminal and said second terminal to impede arcing across the fuse element, and
    - a second portion of said dielectric material is positioned directly between said first conductive endcap and said second conductive endcap to impede arcing between said first conductive endcap and said second conductive endcap. --.

Column 13,

Line 23, Claim 40 should read as follows:

- 40. A method of impeding arcing occurring across a gap formed in a fuse element, the method comprising:
- creating the gap in the fuse element, the gap being created as a result of heat generated in response to excessive current flowing through the fuse element, the fuse element being prepared in a substantially non-linear form; and
  - forcing the arcing across the gap to traverse a path consistent with the substantially non-linear form, wherein
    - said fuse element is enclosed by a dielectric material and comprises at least two terminals, the at least two terminals comprising a first terminal coupled to a first conductive endcap and a second terminal coupled to a second conductive endcap,
    - a first portion of said dielectric material is positioned in an area bounded by said fuse element and a straight line connecting said first terminal and said second terminal to impede the arcing, and

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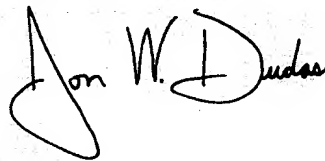
It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 13 (cont'd),

a second portion of said dielectric material is positioned directly  
between said first conductive endcap and said second conductive  
endcap to impede arcing between said first conductive endcap and said  
second conductive endcap. --.

Signed and Sealed this

Fifteenth Day of November, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon W. Dudas". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a distinct "D".

JON W. DUDAS  
*Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office*